

HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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TUESDAY JUNE 6

GROWTH IN EXPORTATION IN 1911—SOME OF THE CAUSES.

Exports from the United States in the fiscal year 1911 will probably exceed by about three hundred million dollars the figures of last year, and cross the two-billion-dollar line. The figures of exports of the bureau of statistics, department of commerce and labor, for the ten months ending with April, show an excess of two hundred and sixty-eight million dollars over those in the corresponding months of last year, and for the single month of April, an excess of twenty-five million dollars over April of last year, thus indicating that the growth in exports in 1911 will approximate three hundred million dollars, and the total exports of the year probably exceed two billion dollars.

What are the principal causes in this enormous growth in exports in 1911 when compared with 1910? It is well known that in certain articles such as wheat, flour, cattle, meats and others of this class, exports of 1911 are less than those of earlier years. Yet despite this falling off in these important staples, of which the United States has in the past been such a large exporter, the total value of merchandise exported seems likely to show a larger growth in 1911 than shown by any earlier year in the history of the foreign trade. What is the cause?

The cause of so large a growth in certain articles as to overcome the loss in certain other articles and still create a gain of two hundred and sixty-eight million dollars over the figures of last year is chiefly the high price of cotton and the increased outward movement of manufactures. Exports of cotton for the ten months ending with April show alone an increase of one hundred and forty-three million dollars over the corresponding months of last year, the total value of cotton exported in the ten months ending April being five hundred and forty-nine million dollars, against four hundred and six million in the same months of last year. The average export price per pound during the ten months was higher than the average in any full fiscal year during the last quarter of a century. Corn also shows a gain, the value of exports in the ten months being nearly twenty-eight million dollars, against a little more than twenty-one million in the same months of last year, while meat and dairy products show an increase of about four million dollars in 1911 over the 1910 period. Copper shows an increase of about six million dollars; automobiles, an increase from six and one-third million dollars to nine and three-quarter million; cotton manufactures, twenty-nine million dollars, against twenty-three million in the same months of last year; fruit, twenty-one million dollars, against sixteen and one-third million in the same months of last year; machinery, seventy-three and three-quarter million dollars, against fifty-seven and one-quarter million in the same months of the prior year; while in many less important articles of manufacture a marked increase in total value and a marked percentage in gain is shown. Manufactures for use in manufacturing show a gain in exports from two hundred to two hundred and twenty-five million, and manufactures ready for consumption, from three hundred and sixty-one million to four hundred and thirty-one million. Manufactures ready for consumption show an increase of nearly seventy million dollars in the nine months ending with March; and manufactures for further use in manufacturing, an increase of twenty-five million during the same period.

The chief causes of the large increase in 1911 over 1910 are found in the large exportation and high price of cotton, and the large exportation of manufactures.

BUILDING ORDINANCE AND FIRE LIMITS.

Some confusion appears to exist regarding the building ordinance before the supervisors and what it specifies regarding buildings to be erected in the country districts. The impression seems to be that an attempt is to be made to impose city conditions upon country people.

This impression is a mistaken one. Restrictions on the use of building materials other than certain specified kinds are not made by the ordinance except for buildings to be erected within the fire limits of Honolulu, a very limited part of the island. The only restrictions put upon country builders is that the building plans shall be approved as to sanitation. So far as isolated buildings are concerned, provided they do not show themselves to be absolutely beyond hope of sanitation, it is unlikely that the ordinance will affect them in the least; where buildings in a village are to be erected, some scrutiny of the plans will be given, and quite properly.

If the various villages on this island were not more or less linked with the city, it might be that they could be left to shift for themselves in the way of sanitation, but the effect of a case of plague outside the city limits is almost the same as if occurring in the city. What protects Aiea, for example, protects Honolulu, and no good reason exists why the protection should be denied. The building ordinance imposes no hardship; it does not even provide for a fee for the sanctioning of a building permit for any structure to cost less than \$500. It imposes restrictions as to sanitation, and why not? Who wants to build any house that will not be sanitary?

If there be any criticism justified of the building ordinance, it is because the majority of its restrictions are confined to building within the fire limits, but this objection may be easily remedied. Enlarge the fire limits.

This should be done anyhow. The Advertiser advocated a straightening out of the fire limit lines some months ago, as a result of which a certain amount of good resulted. The time has come for a further extension of the lines. The fire limits should be extended from Alapai street to the Ewa side of Liliha and Maquka to School street. The vacant lots within this area will soon be filled up with frame buildings otherwise and the safety of the town further threatened.

Another good reason exists for the extension of the fire limits Ewa of Nuuanu river, this being the possibility that the tenement section between River and Liliha will go up in smoke some day, when to allow any rebuilding along the present architectural lines would be folly. After the fire comes it will be too late to extend the limits, as the city would go up that the supervisors were completing the ruin brought about by the flames.

Let the limits be extended soon, the sooner the better.

GENERAL MACOMB'S ADDRESS.

General Macomb delivered an address yesterday that should have a greater effect than simply to win the applause of those who listened and the approbation of those who may read the report of it. The address is that of a practical man pointing out in a practical way what could be accomplished by practical people. He indulged in no flowery language of praise for "this most beautiful city," but he told what could and should be done to improve Honolulu and make it what it should be.

Honolulu has been told often enough of the great future that is in store, but for some reason we appear to enjoy the predictions in the same manner as a dope smoker enjoys his dreams, pleasant but not worthy of carrying out into every day life. We know that Honolulu is to grow tremendously, that business is to double and treble, that the tide of progress will sweep us out of the town class into that of a city, but as yet we have not bothered ourselves to plan a day ahead in the matter of improvements to meet the conditions coming.

General Macomb is the last of many who have talked to Honoluluans about the prosperity that is almost at our door, but he spoke with more authority than those who have gone before and it is possible that his words will have a greater effect. It is possible that his assurance of thousands of soldiers, great marine barracks, the coming of the naval vessels of many nations and the influx of additional citizens will do more than boost real estate values. It is possible that his words will create an enthusiasm among the citizens that will force the proper use of every cent of available public money until everything that is done in the way of public improvement will be not for the moment but for the greater future. It is possible that his words may create the desire in each individual to do his individual share toward preparing Honolulu for what is to be, and nothing further than that is required.

It may be that the little things that have distracted us in the past will be forgotten for the greater things of the future. It may be that we will begin to plan in a city way and discuss our differences in city terms.

Perhaps the little hint that the army will help the citizens do what is necessary to clean up the city, but that it will see that the city is clean, may bear fruit.

GETTING BACK TO THE MAIN QUESTION.

In the conflict of rival petitions regarding the claims of the Mahuka and the civic center sites for the proposed federal building it is well that the community be reminded that the revival of the agitation of the civic center site came about through a desire for civic beauty, it being thought that the opportunity to ensure a civic center should not be lost when obstacles began to appear in the way of an early start for the building on the Mahuka site. In Honolulu there are so many ways of shifting ground in controversies that it is well occasionally to look around and relocate the starting point.

The great majority of those who signed the civic center petition are free from personal bias in the matter of the federal building and disassociated from those few who are opposed to the extension of the Mahuka site because the extension would deprive them of the business locations they now enjoy. The great majority are also disassociated from those who might profit by the utilization of the Irwin site. They represent simply the people of the community, those who have no interest one way or the other in the matter except as they are interested in the best good of Honolulu.

There are, opposing each other strenuously, two small groups of big men, interested in this federal building matter. The one group opposes the Mahuka site because it means shifting them from their business locations; the other group favors the utilization of the Mahuka site, either as it stands or as it will be after extension, because they believe that the location of the federal building there will be advantageous to them personally, adding to the real estate value of the surrounding property. These men are an inconsiderable number of the whole citizenship, but the attitude of the one group is being depicted as the attitude of all the civic center petitioners, and the attitude of the other is being taken as representing that of all those who desire the Mahuka site. This is unfair to the majority on either side of the matter. The majority of the signers of either petition have expressed their preference because it is their preference and not because they are anxious merely to see what will be best for them individually, irrespective of what may be best for the community.

Between these majorities there is no reason for any display of bad temper. Each majority desires only what it believes is for the best good of the city and each can afford to discuss the matter without calling silly names or imputing underhand tactics or selfish motives to the other. Whatever is being done now is not delaying whatever is to be done in the future. It should not be forgotten that the plans for the building are not yet drawn; that no judge can be designated to hear condemnation suits for the Mahuka extension for some time yet to come, and that there is no possibility of anything developing in regard to the Mahuka site for months, at the very shortest.

The question is: Facing present unavoidable delay and facing possible delay of years, with the knowledge that the principal cities of the mainland are working to secure civic centers and appropriating huge sums to secure them, with the owners of a civic center site willing to sell, with the prospect that the chance for a civic center may be lost if not seized now, with the well-known preference of the treasury department for the civic center site and with the chance of spoiling the business center of the city by locating a public building where it will face many retail blocks, is it not best for Honolulu that the one last effort be made to secure the exchange? Forget the personalities and judge the matter in the broad light of the best good of the Honolulu that is to come within a comparatively few years, possibly before the federal building is ready for occupancy.

An attempt now is being made to inject party politics into the question. Eliminate that. Party politics has no more to do with this question than it has to do with the rise and fall of the tides.

Get back to the main question. For the benefit of all Honolulu, is the civic center idea worth working for, and if it is, should not those who favor it take advantage of the opportunity afforded to have the federal building located on the civic center?

ROAD FIGURES AND PAVEMENTS.

The publication of a few figures relative to the cost of road work in and around Honolulu, in connection with the new policy of the supervisors to take the public into their confidence, is commencing to have the effect hoped for. A good many people are sizing up the appropriations and observing the methods of expenditure and the results obtained. The supervisors expect the public to show an interest in what is being done and no better way of attracting interest can be devised than this one of furnishing figures upon which the public may base its criticisms and its praise.

Yesterday The Advertiser compared the cost to the public of the block of bitulithic pavement on Fort street with the cost of the block of macadam on Bethel street, where it was shown that the macadam cost fifty-four cents a square yard and the bitulithic three dollars and seventy-four cents a square yard, the figure for the latter work being taken from the official report made by the supervisors to the legislature. The figure for the bitulithic appeared excessive, even allowing for the extra expense per yard for such a small contract and for the fact that the work was done largely in overtime as a rush job.

Inquiry further into this contract brings to light an interesting fact, namely, that it cost half as much again to plough up and cart off six inches of old macadam on Fort street as it did to lay the same depth of new macadam on Bethel street, certainly an extraordinary thing.

The bitulithic contract was given at three dollars a yard. The road department cleared off the street to a depth of six inches and the cost to the taxpayers was \$983.04, or at the rate of seventy-two cents a square yard and four dollars and thirty-two cents a cubic yard.

The explanation is this: The former board appropriated five thousand dollars to do the work on Fort street. Gilman's contract totaled four thousand and twenty-one dollars. Naturally the work of clearing off the road had to hold out in order to secure the spending of the balance of the appropriation, and it did, almost. Twelve dollars was turned back into the treasury, which, it would be fair to surmise, was overlooked somehow.

Road Supervisor Wilson is laying macadam at the low figures of from forty-five to sixty cents a yard. Over in Koolapoko the roadmakers are managing to get over a dollar a yard, and the former road supervisor of Honolulu squeezed out for the laborers almost as much as that for tearing up the roads. No wonder the politicians are said to be after Wilder's scalp. The first thing they know he will be building roads in Honolulu as cheaply as the Kaimuki Land Company is building its miles of road in Kaimuki.

The supervisors will do well to turn a deaf ear to those clamoring for Wilder's dismissal, however, provided the policy is going to continue of having a road supervisor. The general tax-paying public is not going to be satisfied to have a man who appears to be doing good work at a reasonable figure turned out to make room for anyone of the style of his two immediate predecessors, however politically able they were.

The community is also waiting for the announcement long delayed of the permanent pavement policy of the board. There are contractors ready to submit figures on any large contract that may be proposed, agreeing to complete the work and to accept payment in monthly installments in order not to cripple the board in any one month. The public expects men to learn that something definite is under way to provide downtown Honolulu with something besides macadam that can not be built to stand the traffic.

No one cares who does the work, provided it be done quickly, properly and at a reasonable price.

AT ANY COST—TO THE TAXPAYER.

"Defeat Fear at any cost" is said to be the "slogan" of certain unnamed interests opposed to the renomination of the Governor for a second term. If it is, and if there be more than one or two included among the unnamed opponents of the Governor, a new ward should be added to the pupule house without delay.

There may be, deep down in some secret hiding place, some reason for the opposition to Fear which is said to exist in addition to the opposition of the Delegate, but which is discoverable only in the columns of an afternoon paper. But what is it? Who are the ones ready to accept any old thing for a Governor provided it be not Fear?

Kuhio is out in the open. Is he the only one man enough to declare himself? What has Fear done that makes him so unfit for reappointment? The public would like to know.

The general impression created by all this attempt to show that there is some deep seated opposition to the Governor is that a certain brand of treasury looters are being warded off and are tired of having their scheming attempts fail with such regularity as during the past three years. They are the patriots who would save Hawaii from more Fearism "at any cost"—to the taxpayer.

Mention of the fact that there would have to be condemnation proceedings before the federal government could secure title to the land of the Irwin site for the federal building is referred to by a contemporary as "an admission." Judging from the manner in which the said contemporary received the admission, it appears that it was "education" as well.

DIGNIFIED TO THE LAST.

Whatever may have been the sins of Porfirio Diaz, the now practically exiled former President of Mexico, his letter of resignation, presented to the Mexican deputies on May 25, cannot be read without a feeling of sympathy for the old man who made his country great and raised it to a high rank in the estimation of the nations. The press despatches from Mexico note the silence that fell upon the chamber of deputies when the final message of the President was read, a silence marked the more because it had been expected that the official resignation would be received with cheers and applause.

This is what the veteran wrote:

Sirs:—The Mexican people, who generously have covered me with honors, who proclaimed me as their leader during a war, who patriotically assisted me in work undertaken to develop industry and the commerce of the republic, establish its credit, gain for it the respect of the world and obtain for it an honorable position in the concert of nations; that same people, sirs, have revolted in armed military bands, stating that my presence in the exercise of supreme executive power, is the cause of this insurrection.

I do not know of any fact immediately credited to me, that could have caused this social phenomenon; but, permitting, though not admitting, that I may be unwittingly culpable, such a possibility makes me the least able to reason out and decide my own culpability. Therefore, respecting, as I have always respected, the will of the people, and in accordance with article 82 of the federal constitution, I come before the supreme representatives of the nation in order to resign, unreservedly, the office of constitutional President of the Republic with which the national vote honored me, which I do with all the more reason since, in order to continue in office it would be necessary to shed Mexican blood, endangering the credit of the country, dissipating its wealth, exhausting its resources and exposing its policy to international complications.

I hope, gentlemen, that when the passions, which are inherent to all revolutions, have been calmed, a more conscientious and just study will bring out in the national mind a correct judgment which, when I die, I may carry engraved on my soul as a just estimate of the life which I have devoted and will devote to my countrymen. With all respect,

PORFIRIO DIAZ.

JAPANESE AND KAIMUKI.

It appears that there is little likelihood of the good people of Kaimuki having to "fight" to protect their suburb against a Japanese invasion, but it is to be hoped that the report made in an afternoon paper yesterday regarding the Kaimuki attitude towards Japanese is not a correct one. The published story was to the effect that Kaimukites would resent the use of the present Aliiolani College buildings as a hospital for Japanese. This justifies the inference that there exists in Kaimuki an antagonism against Japanese as people, irrespective of considerations of education, culture, wealth and position. Heretofore, the opposition manifested in certain localities in the city has been to the style of buildings erected by the poorer classes among the Japanese, to the living habits of the poorer classes among the Japanese and to the unsanitary conditions that were created through these habits and because of the poor class of buildings. This opposition is justified.

But, Japanese patients in a hospital, such as the Aliiolani buildings could be transformed into, could offer no room for objections on any of the grounds above quoted. Kaimuki is acknowledged by the medical fraternity as one of Honolulu's healthiest suburbs and already three hospitals have been located there, to which no objection has been voiced. If there be, then, any readiness to "fight" to prevent the establishment of a fourth hospital for the use of Japanese, it is because Japanese as a race are not wanted.

Where there are as many cultured Japanese as there are in Honolulu, to draw any such class race line as this is absurd. For that reason, we trust that the report in an afternoon paper yesterday regarding the objections of the Kaimuki people is no more based upon fact than the report that a Japanese hospital is to be established in the Aliiolani buildings.

WHY NOT HAWAIIAN MOUNTED POLICE?

The suggestion advanced by General Macomb that a branch of the regular army be established here among the Hawaiians to parallel the Philippine Scouts is a happy one. Hawaiians make excellent soldiers and probably would enlist readily, if for service only in the Islands, while they could be of great service to the regular infantry through an intimate knowledge of the country and through their skill as boatmen.

This suggestion has advanced another, namely, that Hawaii could be well served if the police of the Islands were placed on a military basis on the lines of the Canadian Northwest Mounted Police or the Mounted Constabulary of Pennsylvania. If the territorial police could be enlisted for a term of years, enlistment based on physical, moral and educational qualifications, brought under military discipline and with advancement based on merit, the Islands would be better looked after, the political incubus could be removed and the police standards raised materially, while the police body could be depended upon as an adjunct to the military if the necessity ever arose.

It is probable that His Honor, Joe Fern, in announcing that he would veto the Building Ordinance because it is aimed at abuses now tolerated among the tenement owners, of which he is one, was speaking more with the mouth than with the mind. It is impossible to conceive of anyone who has occupied the position of mayor of this city for over two years and who knows conditions so well stating that he is opposed to building tenements in such a way that firemen would have a chance to fight a fire and meaning what he says. This paper has never credited Mayor Fern with knowing much, but it declines to believe that he knows as little as his remark would indicate.

Mayor Fern is said to have been joking when he announced that he would veto the building ordinance. Possibly. The trouble comes, however, from the fact that there has been so much jocularism among those in power concerning this same ordinance that the joke is threadbare and the community exasperated. It was such a funny joke when the members of the last board of supervisors concluded to wait until they could understand the ordinance before they passed it; it was a regular giggler when the city attorney lost the draft; and it was side-splitting to see all the tenements going up while the ordinance was lost, but the time for jokes has gone. His Honor cracked his a trifle late.

A correspondent throws light on "where the taxpayers' money goes" in regard to road work. He states that fifteen men—and presumably one of them a well-paid luna—worked for a week and failed to finish a job that one man could have done for fifteen dollars. Fifteen men, working a week at the current wage, would cost the taxpayers one hundred and thirty-five dollars. Add to that the expense of two mules and two dumpcarts for a week and you have the total of what should have been fifteen dollars, while the work has been done in such a way that it will have to be done over again, within six months!

Does the building ordinance provide for fire escapes on buildings over two stories in height? If not, why not? Is it supposed that Honoluluans cannot be killed in a three-story drop, or suffocated or burned to death, as people are in other communities where adequate life-saving facilities are not provided?

Canadian reciprocity appears to be about the only hope remaining for cheap lumber with which to meet the growing demand for building material in Honolulu.

Every day makes more apparent that there will be no congressional party visiting Hawaii this summer.

PAPKE OUTS SULLIVAN AND STILL CHAMPION

LONDON, June 9.—Billy Papke, commonly known as the Illinois Thunderbolt, and who has recently returned from a series of fights in Australia, defeated Sullivan for the middleweight championship of the world last night. The fighting was fierce from the first tap of the gong and Sullivan, who was badly punished, took the count in the

ninth round. The fight, which was witnessed by a large crowd, was for a purse of \$10,000.

A GOOD FRIEND.

No one can have a better friend when troubled with colic or diarrhoea than Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. Ever since the middle aged man of today was a child it has been going about doing good work until its fame has spread to nearly all parts of the civilized world and stands unrivalled for its prompt cure. It never fails to give relief. For sale by all dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for Hawaii.